

**THREE**

**LITTLE**

**WORDS**

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A Foreign Student's Guide  
to English Articles.

by Elizabeth Claire

## INTRODUCTION

**0.1** The three words that are used the most often in the English language are

# a, an, and the

**0.2** *A, an, and the* are a part of speech called *articles*. Whenever you see or hear an article, you can expect a noun to follow. (A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.)

**0.3** Sometimes the noun follows directly after *a, an* or *the*:



a face



an apple



the pencil

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**0.4** Sometimes there are *adjectives* between *a, an* or *the* and the noun. (An adjective is a word that tells about or describes a noun.)



a happy face

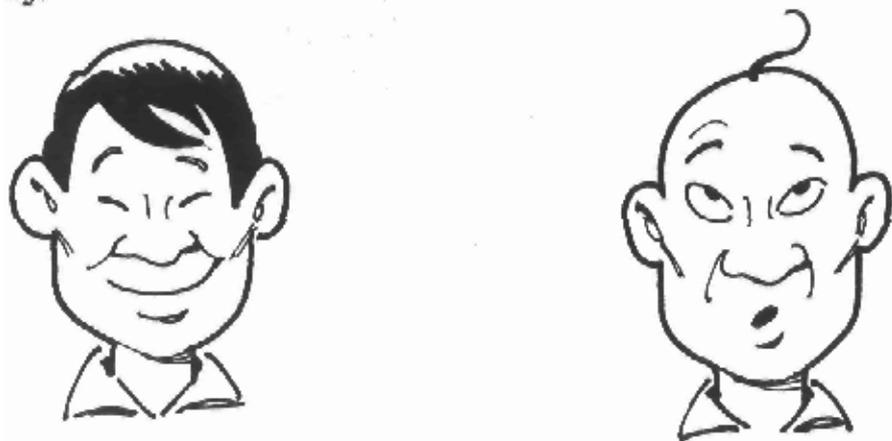


an old rotten apple



the short fat pencil

**0.5** If you leave out *a*, *an*, and *the*, or if you use them incorrectly, your meaning may still be clear. But it will not sound right to Americans. In some cases it can make a very big difference in the meaning of what you say.



a. He has black hair.

b. He has a black hair.

**0.6** In speaking, the articles are not stressed. They are said quickly and are joined with the word that follows them. It's very hard to hear *a*, *an*, and *the* when Americans are talking. These little words seem to disappear!

**0.7** Some languages do not have articles. In other languages there are many forms of articles and they are used in ways different from the way English uses them.

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el la las unos dem une  
los uno les die der das il i  
le unas l'

Because of these differences, almost everyone learning English has some trouble with *a*, *an*, and *the*. This book was written to help you.



## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

There are rules that can help you decide when to use *a*, *an*, or *the*, and when to leave them out. Each of these rules has some exceptions. And the exceptions have exceptions! Native English-speakers did not learn these rules in school. They just say "It sounds right this way."

This book has TEN STEPS to help you understand how Americans use these words. But the most important way to improve your English is to listen and read. Then the correct way will sound right to you too, when you speak and write. If you are using this book without a teacher, here are some suggestions for you:

1. Relax. If you are nervous in conversation because of limited English, do only STEP ONE and STEP TWO in this book. Listen to native speakers as much as you can, and increase your vocabulary and understanding. Go on to the next steps only when you feel ready.
2. Ask a native-English speaker to help you with the listening and speaking parts in STEP ONE. You will need a native speaker to check some of your answers and the free composition in the mastery tests.
3. Read the rules and sentences, then do the exercises. Check your answers.
4. If you score 100 on any test, that's great! Go on to the next step.
5. If your answers do not agree with the book's answers, re-read the rules in that step. If you have more than four answers wrong, wait several days or longer before you go to the next step. Do not try to complete the book too quickly.
6. After you complete STEP NINE, take the review tests in STEP TEN and check your answers. If you have made any errors, go back to the rules. The number in parentheses tells which rule to see. For example (1.2) is paragraph 1.2 on page 5.
7. Take the MASTERY TESTS. Have a native-English speaker or a teacher correct your sentences.
8. Keep listening for the use of these three little words and notice them in your reading. Ask English-speaking friends to correct you if you are using *a*, *an*, or *the* incorrectly or omitting them where they are needed.

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**STEP ONE: Listen carefully**

**1.1 Can you hear *a*, *an*, and *the*?**

**EXERCISE:**

Train your ears to hear these little words. Listen to a native English speaker (or the teacher) read a few sentences at a time from any simple story. Make a mark (/) every time you hear *a*, *an* or *the*.

After each item, the reader will tell you how many times *a*, *an*, or *the* appeared in the sentences. Check this against the number you wrote down.

I hear:

There really are:

I hear:

There really are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_

Did you improve as you practiced? \_\_\_\_\_.

Practice a little every day with an English speaker reading to you.

I hear:

There really are:

I hear:

There really are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.2** *A* and *an* mean the same thing: one.

**1.3** *An* is used before words that begin with vowel sounds. (The vowels are a, e, i, o, and u).

The letter *h* is "silent" in some words.

The names of the letters *e, f, h, l, m, n, r, s,* and *x* begin with vowel sounds.

an orange

an Indian

an angry mother

an umbrella

an egg

an excellent paper

an idea

an hour

an honest person

an "f"

an "o"

an "m"

an \_\_\_\_\_

an \_\_\_\_\_

an \_\_\_\_\_

**1.4** *A* is used before words that begin with consonant sounds. (Consonants are those letters which are not vowels.)

The *Eu* and *u* in some words sound like the consonant sound /yu/.

*One* sounds like *wun*.  
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The names of the letters *b, c, d, g, j, k, p, q, t, u, v, w, y,* and *z* begin with consonant sounds.

a jet

a car

a delicious hamburger

a house

a doll

a yellow submarine

a university

a unicorn

a European man

a "b"

a "t"

a one-way street

a \_\_\_\_\_

a \_\_\_\_\_

a \_\_\_\_\_



## EXERCISES

Write *a* or *an* in the following sentences:

1. I had \_\_\_\_\_ egg for breakfast.
2. I broke \_\_\_\_\_ cup.
3. My mother bought \_\_\_\_\_ umbrella last night.
4. Betty spells her name with \_\_\_\_\_ "i", not with \_\_\_\_\_ "y".
5. After \_\_\_\_\_ hour, we got tired and went home.
6. The new student borrowed \_\_\_\_\_ ESL book from the office.
7. My teacher has \_\_\_\_\_ M.A. degree from Columbia University.
8. I would like to have \_\_\_\_\_ hundred dollars.
9. It is \_\_\_\_\_ honor to meet the governor of New Jersey.
10. My cousin joined \_\_\_\_\_ union.
11. I have never seen \_\_\_\_\_ unicorn.
12. It is good to meet \_\_\_\_\_ honest person.
13. There is \_\_\_\_\_ A & P Supermarket on the corner.
14. The word "restroom" is \_\_\_\_\_ euphemism (polite word) for toilet.
15. Ben has \_\_\_\_\_ one-track mind.
16. He goes to \_\_\_\_\_ university in California.
17. I washed my hair with \_\_\_\_\_ herbal shampoo.
18. A clown with \_\_\_\_\_ unhappy face did tricks for the children.
19. Frank has \_\_\_\_\_ unique way of looking at the world.
20. The word *an* is \_\_\_\_\_ article.

## ANSWERS

- |          |       |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. an    | 6. an | 11.a  | 16.a  |
| 2. a     | 7. an | 12.an | 17.an |
| 3. an    | 8. a  | 13.an | 18.an |
| 4. an, a | 9. an | 14.a  | 19.a  |
| 5. an    | 10.a  | 15.a  | 20.an |

**1.5** There are two different ways to pronounce *the* in careful speech. Before consonant sounds, it is pronounced [Dɔ]. Listen to a native speaker say these phrases:

the man  
the balloon  
the bicycle  
the union

the Chinese puzzle  
the red house  
the tall woman  
the whole pie

the green grass  
the long road  
the difficult lesson  
the European man

**1.6** Before vowel sounds, it is pronounced [Di].

the answer  
the orange  
the air  
the angry girl  
the "s"

the ugly mask  
the ice cream cone  
the Indian  
the open umbrella  
the hour before dawn

the oldest fairy  
the end of the story  
the eighth floor  
the umpire  
the honest truth

**EXERCISE:**

Read the examples from groups 1.5 and 1.6 above. Practice connecting *the* with the word after it, as though the two words were just one word. Example: [Di x nsqr].

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## STEP TWO: Look carefully Can you see a, an, and the?

You will learn to use the articles correctly if you become more aware of them in your reading.

### **EXERCISE:**

**A.** Read this story from Aesop. Draw a circle around all the *a's*, *an's* and *the's*. Count the number of words that you have circled; write that number on the line at the end of each paragraph.

### **THE WILD DOG AND THE FARM DOG**

1. Once there was (a) wild dog who was very, very hungry. He had not had anything to eat for (a) long time. He was shaggy and thin and his bones stuck out through his skin. He ran here and there through (the) woods and meadows looking for (a) rabbit or (a) squirrel or even (a) mouse to eat. But it was winter, and he found nothing. Finally he came near (a) farm house where he met (an) old farm dog. (The) farm dog was plump and had well-brushed hair.

9

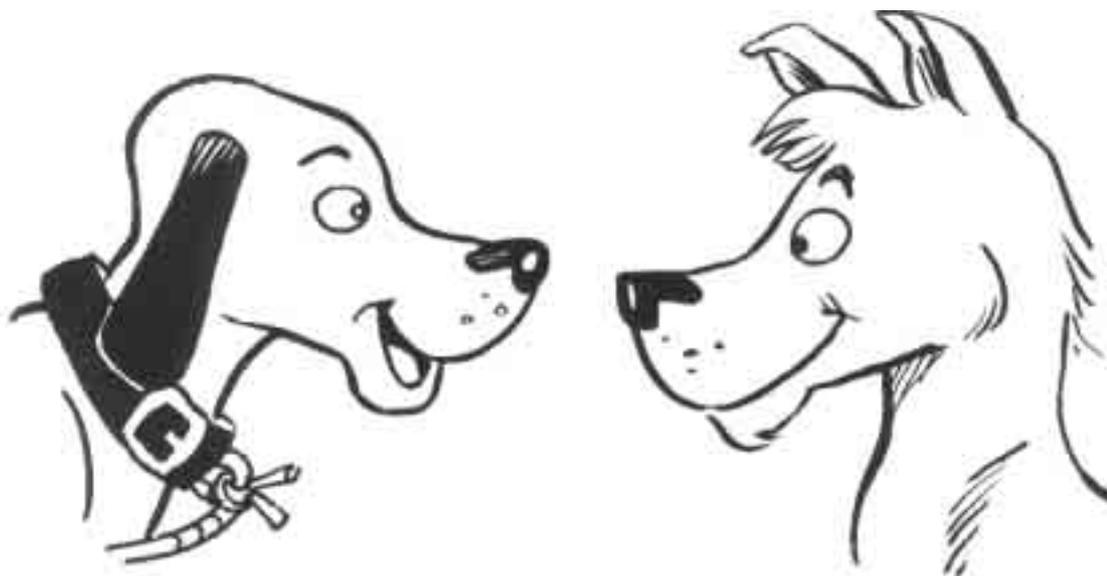
2. "How come you are so plump and well-fed?" asked the wild dog.

3. "Oh, the farmer gives me milk, bones, and delicious scraps from his table," said the farm dog. "All I have to do is bark to warn him if robbers come; it's a very easy job. I'm sure the farmer would give you the same if you worked here too."

4. "I think I would like such an easy job," said the wild dog, and his mouth started to water as he thought of the milk, bones and scraps from the farmer's table. "I could protect the farm very well, as I have good ears, good eyes and a good voice. I can bark very loud."

5. Just then, the wild dog noticed a place around the farm dog's neck where the hair was all rubbed off. "What is that on your neck?" asked the wild dog.

---



6. "Oh, that's where my collar goes. It rubs off the hair. But it doesn't hurt; it's nothing to worry about," said the farm dog.

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7. "Your collar? You mean you are tied up on a rope?"

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8. "Yes, most of the time. But I don't mind," said the farm dog. "I am used to it. Let's go now so the farmer can see you and give you something to eat. You look very hungry."

---

9. "You mean you cannot run through the meadows and the woods and go wherever you please?"

---

10. "Once in a while, I wish I could" said the farm dog. "But it's no problem for me, I'm used to it. Stay. You'll get used to it too."

---

11. "No thank you," said the wild dog. "I would rather be hungry and free than well-fed on a rope. Good bye!"

12. And with those words, the wild dog ran off into the woods.



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13. How many articles did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Did you miss any articles? \_\_\_\_\_ How many did you miss? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Go back to the story and underline all the nouns. (A noun is the word for a person, place, thing or idea.) Notice that wherever there is an article, a noun is sure to follow. However, not all nouns have articles before them! Nouns can sometimes be used as adjectives: farm dog.

15. How many nouns did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

### ANSWERS

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. 9 (see sample)   | 7. 1 (collar, rope)               |
| 2. 1 (dog)  | 8. 3 (time, farm, dog, farmer)    |
| 3. 5 (farmer, milk, bones, scraps, table, farm, dog, robbers, job, farmer)            | 9. 2 (meadows, woods)             |
| 4. 6 (job, dog, mouth, milk, bones, scraps, farmer's, table, farm, ears, eyes, voice) | 10. 2 (while, farm, dog, problem) |
| 5. 5 (dog, place, farm dog's neck, hair, neck dog)                                    | 11. 2 (dog, rope)                 |
| 6. 2 (collar, hair, farm dog)   | 12. 2 (words, dog, woods)         |
|   | 13. 40                            |
|   | 15. 64                            |

## STEP THREE: The Indefinite Article (A/an)

**3.1** Use *a* or *an* before nouns that are singular, countable, and indefinite.

single = one

countable = can be counted

indefinite = not definite, not specific, not previously spoken about or pointed out.

a. Would you like a cookie?



b. I ate an egg for breakfast.



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**3.2** Never use *a* or *an* with plural nouns or non-countable nouns. The word *some* may be used for plural indefinite or non-countable nouns.

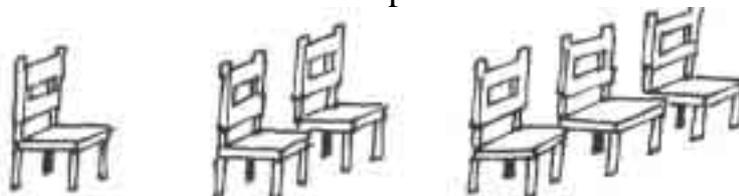
a. I ate eggs for breakfast.

I ate some eggs for breakfast.

b. I had soup for lunch.

I had some soup for lunch.

**3.3** Countable nouns are names of things that can be counted. Most (but not all) countable nouns have a definite size or shape.



one chair, two chairs, three chairs ...

one idea                      two ideas ...

one person                  two people

one deer                      two deer



one tooth  
 one \_\_\_\_\_  
 one \_\_\_\_\_



thirty-two teeth  
 two \_\_\_\_\_  
 many \_\_\_\_\_

**3.4** Use *a* (*an*) when you mean *one*, but you are not calling attention to the number.

- a. Which would you like: a cookie, an apple, or a piece of cake?
- b. I'll have an apple, please.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**3.5** Use *one* when you mean "only one" or wish to call attention to the number or contrast it with another number.

- a. Would you like one apple or two?
- b. One apple is enough, thank you.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

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## EXERCISES

Write *a*, or *an* or *one*. Do not write *a* or *an* before plural nouns. Write the symbol [T] to show that there is no article needed. (T = zero, nothing)

1. I read \_\_\_\_\_ book about Mars last night. I like \_\_\_\_\_ books about outer space.
2. I usually read a lot, but last week, I read only \_\_\_\_\_ book.
3. My mother baked \_\_\_\_\_ cookies yesterday. Would you like cookie?
4. I used to eat two eggs and three pieces of toast for breakfast. Now I'm on a diet.  
 For breakfast I have \_\_\_\_\_ egg and \_\_\_\_\_ piece of toast.
5. I had \_\_\_\_\_ goldfish when I was six years old. Its name was "Jaws."

6. My sister has \_\_\_\_\_ goldfish. They are always hungry.
7. Lou has two dogs, six cats and \_\_\_\_\_ parrot.
8. Joe's uncle tells \_\_\_\_\_ good stories.
9. Marc has \_\_\_\_\_ aunt who lives in Mississippi.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ old lady found \_\_\_\_\_ hungry cat.
11. We bought \_\_\_\_\_ bananas at the supermarket yesterday.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ banana was rotten, but the others were okay.

## ANSWERS

- |         |               |           |         |
|---------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| 1. a, T | 4. one, one   | 8. T      | 11. T   |
| 2. one  | 5. a          | 9. an     | 12. One |
| 3. T, a | 6. T          | 10. An, a |         |
|         | 7. one (or a) |           |         |

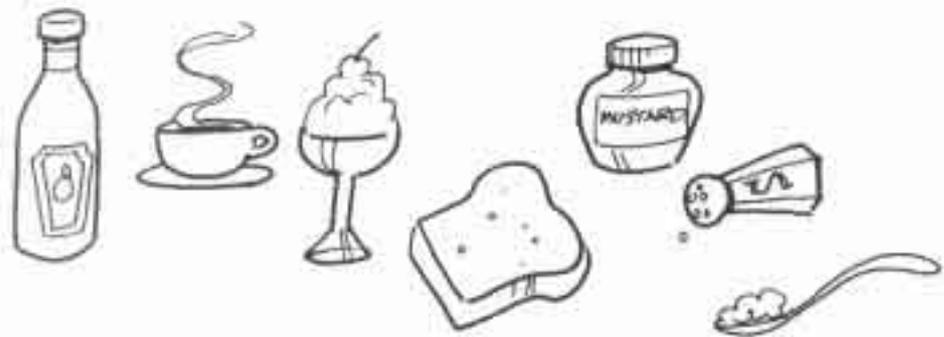
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**3.6 Non-countable nouns name things that have no definite size or shape. These are also called mass nouns.**



other mass nouns:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**3.7** In order to show quantities of non-countable nouns, containers or units of measure must be used.



a bottle of ketchup  
a cup of coffee  
a dish of ice cream  
a jar of mustard  
a loaf of bread  
a slice of bread  
a nickel

a pound of butter  
a quart of milk  
a gallon of water  
a pint of jam  
a spoonful of applesauce  
a grain of salt  
a dollar

Other units and containers:

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**3.8** Some words can be either countable or non-countable, depending on their meaning in a sentence. When the word is countable, use *a (an)*; when it is non-countable, no article is used.

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. I ate an egg for breakfast   | (a whole egg)                 |
| b. I got egg on my shirt.       | (an indefinite amount of egg) |
| c. His hair is black            | (all of it.)                  |
| d. There is a hair in the soup. | (a single strand of hair)     |
| e. Do you want chicken?         | (the meat of a chicken)       |
| f. Do you want a chicken?       | (a whole bird)                |
| g. Mary had a little lamb.      | (a baby sheep, a pet)         |
| h. Sarah ate lamb for dinner.   | (meat from a lamb)            |
|                                 |                               |
| i. a fish = the whole animal    |                               |
| j. fish = the meat from a fish  |                               |
| k. candy = a kind of food       |                               |
| l. a candy = one piece of candy |                               |

## EXERCISES

Write *a* only where it is needed. Write [T] where no article is needed.

1. Do you want \_\_\_\_\_ milk with your coffee?
2. I like \_\_\_\_\_ lamb, especially with potatoes and lots of gravy.
3. Henry has \_\_\_\_\_ lamb. Its name is "Snow White."
4. We always have \_\_\_\_\_ bread with our meals.
5. Put \_\_\_\_\_ salad dressing on your salad.
6. The mechanic put \_\_\_\_\_ quart of oil into the engine.
7. We found \_\_\_\_\_ money on the sidewalk.
8. Where can I buy \_\_\_\_\_ meat?
9. Can you give me \_\_\_\_\_ bowl of rice?
10. \_\_\_\_\_ grain of salt is very small.

## ANSWERS

- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. T | 3. a | 5. T | 7. T | 9. a  |
| 2. T | 4. T | 6. a | 8. T | 10. a |

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## **STEP FOUR: Other uses of a and an**

### **4.1 Use a or an when you are telling that someone has a certain job or occupation.**

- a. My father is a banker.
- b. Joe is a truck driver.
- c. Can he be a singer with such an awful voice?
- d. Louis is studying to be an engineer.
- e. Carmen is a very good cook.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. \_\_\_\_\_

### **4.2 Use a or an in expressions of time or measurement.**

- a. We have gym three times a week.
- b. She goes to California twice a year.
- c. I visit my grandmother once a month.
- d. Joe earns two dollars an hour.
- e. Those shoes cost thirty dollars a pair.
- f. Butter is a dollar seventy a pound now.
- g. The car was speeding at seventy miles an hour.
- h. \_\_\_\_\_
- i. \_\_\_\_\_

### **4.3 Use a or an in these common expressions:**

- a. I saw him a couple of months ago.
- b. All of a sudden, the engine began to shake and rattle,
- c. It's been a long time since I saw you.

- d. Did you have a good time?
- e. I'm in a hurry to get to my class.
- f. As a matter of fact, we agree with you completely.
- g. It's a shame it rained during your whole vacation.
- h. What a pity that she lost her job, her husband and her best friend.
- i. Charlie is always in a good mood after he has a good dinner.
- j. New Yorkers always seem to be in a rush.
- k. \_\_\_\_\_

**4.4** Do not use *a (an)* in expressions with "kind of" "type of" or "sort of"

- a. Florida is the kind of place I like to visit.
- b. Mary is the sort of daughter who makes parents happy to have children.
- c. Henry is the type of person you trust immediately.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

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**4.5** Few / a few      little / a little

Here are cases where the word *a* completely changes the meaning of a sentence:

- a. Jack has few friends. He is often lonely. (few = not many, almost none)
- b. John has a few friends in New York. He visits them whenever he goes there.  
(a few = several, 3, 4, 5, etc.)
- c. Joe has quite a few friends. There were fifty people at his birthday party.  
(quite a few = many, an impressive number)
- d. Nancy has little money. She can't afford a vacation this year.  
(little - not much; a very small quantity; not enough)
- e. Nicky has very little money. He had to borrow two hundred dollars from his father to help pay the rent.  
(very little = almost none)

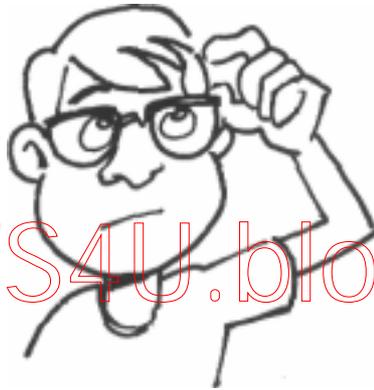
f. Maria has a little money. She's going to Florida for a vacation.  
(a little = some, enough)

g. \_\_\_\_\_

h. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4.6 Other expressions with a

- a. *A great many* people marched in the parade.
- b. *A good many* of my ideas come to me in my dreams,
- c. *A good number* of students attend regularly.
- d. Chang sends *a great deal* of his money to his parents back in Taiwan.
- e. *Many a* foreign student has been confused by English grammar.  
= Many foreign students have been confused by English grammar.



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#### **EXERCISES**

Write *a*, *an*, or *one*, or  $\top$  in the lines:

- 1. Eggs cost ninety cents \_\_\_\_\_ dozen.
- 2. We eat three times \_\_\_\_\_ day.
- 3. Joe saw her \_\_\_\_\_ couple of months ago.
- 4. If you're in \_\_\_\_\_ hurry, I can get it for you now.
- 5. Would you like \_\_\_\_\_ sugar in your tea?
- 6. Jack caught \_\_\_\_\_ fish.
- 7. Paul ate \_\_\_\_\_ fish for dinner last night.
- 8. Are you in good mood?

9. The speed limit is fifty-five miles \_\_\_\_\_ hour.
10. His uncle is \_\_\_\_\_ teacher.
11. Carlos wants to be \_\_\_\_\_ astronaut.
12. Is this the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ party you like?
13. \_\_\_\_\_ few people like to admit that they are wrong. (Not many people)
14. There were \_\_\_\_\_ few people at the party last night. (Several people)
15. If you have \_\_\_\_\_ little time, I can tell you the story. (a small amount of time)
16. She has \_\_\_\_\_ little energy. She's always tired. (Not much energy)
17. Read a page of your usual reading material and underline *a* and *an* wherever they appear. Notice the nouns that follow. See if they are countable nouns, or nouns that are in the common expressions you just read about.
18. Make a tape recording of an English talk show, commercial or news broadcast. Listen to it several times until you can clearly hear the articles and identify the nouns that follow them.

### ANSWERS

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- |      |       |        |       |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1. a | 6. a  | 11. an | 15. a |
| 2. a | 7. T  | 12. T  | 16. T |
| 3. a | 8. a  | 13. T  |       |
| 4. a | 9. an | 14. a  |       |
| 5. T | 10. a |        |       |



How are you  
doing so far?

## STEP FIVE: The Definite Article (*the*)



**5.1** The word *the* points out a definite person, place or thing or idea, or one that has been mentioned before, (mention = talk about, refer to)

*The* may be used with either singular or plural nouns.

a. I liked the story in STEP TWO about the wild dog and the farm dog.

b. The exercises in this book will help us to use the articles correctly.

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

**5.2** Use *the* when the listener or reader already knows which things you mean, or when there is only one possible item you are speaking about.

a. I took the cat to the veterinarian.  
(my cat, or the cat I usually talk about; the only veterinarian in town, or the usual veterinarian I go to) (veterinarian = animal doctor)

Compare: I took a cat to a veterinarian.

(It is not certain which cat or which veterinarian the speaker is talking about.)

b. I took the car to the repair shop to have the brakes fixed.

(the speaker's car or the car the speaker has talked about before; the repair shop the speaker usually goes to or has talked about before, or the only repair shop in town; the brakes that are on the car)

Compare: I bought a car from a repair shop.

(A car and a repair shop that the speaker has not spoken about before.)

c. The family that lives in apartment 5B comes from Hong Kong.

(*The* is used because there is an explanation that makes it clear (definite) which family I am talking about. There is only one family that lives in apartment 5B.)

Compare: A family that lives on Main Street comes from Singapore.

(There are many families that live on Main Street, so it is still not clear to you which one.)

d. Could you lend me the green marker please?  
(There is only one possible green marker.)

Compare: Could you lend me a green marker please?  
(Any green marker will do, and there may be more than one.)

e. \_\_\_\_\_

f. \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISES

Write *a* or *the* in the following sentences:

1. Once upon a time, there was \_\_\_\_\_ wild dog.
2. He came to \_\_\_\_\_ farm and met \_\_\_\_\_ farm dog.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ wild dog spoke to \_\_\_\_\_ farm dog about his job.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ job was easy; all \_\_\_\_\_ farm dog had to do was bark if \_\_\_\_\_ robber came near \_\_\_\_\_ farm.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ farmer fed \_\_\_\_\_ farm dog milk, bones and scraps from \_\_\_\_\_ family's dinner table.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ wild dog saw \_\_\_\_\_ mark on \_\_\_\_\_ farm dog's neck.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ mark was from \_\_\_\_\_ rope.
8. "Goodbye," said \_\_\_\_\_ wild dog.
9. He did not want to wear \_\_\_\_\_ rope around his neck.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ farm dog was sad to see him leave.
11. I needed \_\_\_\_\_ new rain coat.
12. I went to \_\_\_\_\_ new closing store on Main Street.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ sales lady in \_\_\_\_\_ coat department was very helpful.
14. I wanted \_\_\_\_\_ short coat but couldn't find one.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ saleslady showed me where \_\_\_\_\_ short rain coats were.
16. I bought \_\_\_\_\_ light blue rain coat and \_\_\_\_\_ light blue hat to match.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ coat was sixty dollars and \_\_\_\_\_ hat was ten.

## ANSWERS

- |                     |                |            |             |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. a                | 6. The, a, the | 11.a       | 16.a, a     |
| 2. a, a             | 7. The, a      | 12.the (a) | 17.The, the |
| 3. the, the         | 8. the         | 13.A (the) |             |
| 4. The, the, a, the | 9. a           | 14.a       |             |
| 5. the, the, the    | 10.10. The     | 15.the     |             |

**5.3** Use *the* with things that are the only ones of their kind.

(There may be others in the same class of things, but we don't usually think about them.)



- a. The sun rose at six a.m. this morning. (the sun in our solar system.)
- b. The moon and the stars shone brightly last night.  
(our moon, and the stars we ordinarily see at night.)
- c. Have you read the Bible? (the famous Christian collection of stories)
- d. The sky is blue. (today's sky or the usual sky above us.)
- e. The weather is great. (our present weather)
- f. The world is full of opportunities. (our world.)
- g. Forget about the past. (the time before today)
- h. Don't worry about the future. (the time after today)
- i. There is no time like the present. (now)
- j. I spoke to him on the telephone yesterday.
- k. I heard about it on the radio.
- l. In just two minutes we'll be on the air. (broadcasting over the radio)
- m. In just two minutes we'll be in the air. (flying in the Earth's atmosphere)
- n. (Notice: I saw it on television last night.)
- o. \_\_\_\_\_
- p. \_\_\_\_\_

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## EXERCISE:

Write *a*, *an* or *the* only where they are needed. Write  $\top$  where nothing is needed.

1. How is \_\_\_\_\_ weather in Puerto Rico in the summer?
2. I love looking at \_\_\_\_\_ ocean.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ future will be here before you know it.
4. My favorite book is \_\_\_\_\_ Bible.
5. Barry found \_\_\_\_\_ wallet that everyone had been looking for.
6. Carrie found \_\_\_\_\_ wallet in the subway.  
(one she hadn't known about before)
7. During an eclipse of \_\_\_\_\_ sun, the shadow of \_\_\_\_\_ moon falls on  
\_\_\_\_\_ earth.
8. What do you think about \_\_\_\_\_ economy?
9. Don't let \_\_\_\_\_ past run your life.
10. Do you listen to \_\_\_\_\_ radio in your car on your way to work?
11. What did you watch on \_\_\_\_\_ TV last night?
12. You ought to see \_\_\_\_\_ doctor. (any doctor)
13. You ought to see \_\_\_\_\_ doctor. (your doctor)
14. I bought \_\_\_\_\_ new suit and \_\_\_\_\_ hat to match.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ moon is 240,000 miles from \_\_\_\_\_ earth.
16. Sometimes you can see \_\_\_\_\_ planet Venus in the west,  
just after \_\_\_\_\_ sun sets.
17. I saw \_\_\_\_\_ shooting star last night.

## ANSWERS

- |        |                  |            |              |       |
|--------|------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| 1. the | 5. the           | 9. the     | 13. the      | 17. a |
| 2. the | 6. a             | 10. the    | 14. a, a     |       |
| 3. The | 7. the, the, the | 11. $\top$ | 15. The, the |       |
| 4. The | 8. the           | 12. a      | 16. the, the |       |

**5.4** When something is outstanding, or excellent in comparison with others of its kind, we stress the word *the* before it. In writing, we usually underline it or write it in italic letters. In speaking, it is often pronounced [Di].

a. Sherry gave *the* party of the year.

b. I met *the* man last night.

(The speaker is saying that this man is very special; he is "Mr. Right." i.e. someone to fall in love with and marry)

**5.5** Always use *the* with superlatives:

a. She is the best cook I have ever known.

b. That's the best picture in the whole museum.

c. Dick bought the most expensive watch in the store.

d. I buy nothing but the best for my family

e. \_\_\_\_\_

f. \_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISES

Write *the*, or *a (an)* in the following sentences.

1. Bill is \_\_\_\_\_ nice person. He is \_\_\_\_\_ nicest person I have ever met.

2. I just read \_\_\_\_\_ interesting book. It was \_\_\_\_\_ most interesting book in the whole library.

3. Mother bought \_\_\_\_\_ expensive dress. In fact, it was \_\_\_\_\_ most expensive dress in the store.

4. Mother said that \_\_\_\_\_ best thing to do for the flu is go to bed and rest.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ good thing to do for a headache is to put ice on your forehead.

6. Last winter was \_\_\_\_\_ worst winter in twenty years.

7. Maggie is \_\_\_\_\_ prettiest girl in the class.

8. One of \_\_\_\_\_ most difficult things to master in English is the use of articles.

### ANSWERS

1. a, the

2. an, the

3. an, the

4. the

5. A (one)

6. the

7. the

8. the

## STEP SIX: The Definite Article versus the Indefinite Article

**6.1** Use the definite article, *the*, when you want to point something out and make it definite.

(*The* is like *this*, *that*, *these* and *those* except that it does not show place, and it may be used with either singular and plural nouns.)

Use the indefinite article *a* (*an*), with singular nouns that are not definite. The plural form for the indefinite article (*a*, *an*) is *no* article. [T]

- a. Definite: The boys in Richard's class are athletes. (those boys)
- b. Indefinite: Boys grow up to be men. (any boys, all boys)
- c. Definite: The teachers at this school are kind. (these teachers)
- d. Indefinite: Teachers need special training. (any teachers, all teachers)
- e. Definite: \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Indefinite: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXERCISES**

Write *the* only with definite nouns. Write T for plural, indefinite nouns:

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1. It's hot in this room. Can you open \_\_\_\_\_ windows?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ girls mature faster than \_\_\_\_\_ boys.
3. Do you think \_\_\_\_\_ dogs are smarter than \_\_\_\_\_ cats?
4. Where are \_\_\_\_\_ girls you told me about?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ scientists I spoke to are working on a way to create cheaper electricity.
6. Mother says that \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables are good for you.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables from my garden are nice and fresh.

### **ANSWERS**

1. the
2. T, T
3. T, T
4. the
5. The
6. T
7. The

- 6.2** Do not use *the* with months, days of the week, or holidays.
- a. I'll see you in April.
  - b. Wednesday comes before Thursday.
  - c. Lou's birthday is August 12.
  - d. There are only 10 days till Christmas.
  - e. My family always enjoys Thanksgiving.
  - f. New Year's Day falls on (a) Monday this year.

- 6.3** Exceptions: Use *the* in expressions such as "the Fourth of July."
- a. My birthday is the twelfth of January.

- 6.4** When days of the week are modified by a following phrase, use *the*.
- a. We can leave work a half hour early the Friday before vacation.
  - b. "Mardi Gras" is the Tuesday before Lent begins.

- 6.5** Do not use *the* before personal names.

- a. Joe is my friend.
- b. Mrs. Baffa is a principal.
- c. I saw Senator Chase.
- d. King George signed the treaty.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_



**6.6** Exception: When there is more than one person by the same name, use *the* to make it clear which one you mean.

a. The John Brown from Los Angeles is *the* one I was talking about, not *the* John Brown from San Francisco.

b. \_\_\_\_\_.

**6.7** When you refer to all the people in a family, use *the* and the plural form of the family name.

a. The Lopezes live in Fort Lee.

b. All the Katos had the flu last winter.

c. Have you seen the Foxes lately?

d. \_\_\_\_\_

**6.8** Another way to refer to the entire family is to use *the* plus the family name, plus the word family.

a. There have been many famous people in the Kennedy family.

b. \_\_\_\_\_

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**6.9** *The* is used with some proper names followed by an adjective or noun:

Alexander the Great

Jimmy the Greek

Richard the Lionhearted

William the Conqueror

Louis XIV (Louis the Fourteenth)

Leif the Lucky

Elizabeth II (Elizabeth the Second)

Eric the Red

## EXERCISES

Write *the* only where it is necessary in the following sentences:

1. Where is \_\_\_\_\_ Betsy?
2. Prances married \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Smith who is a surgeon, not Dr. Smith who is \_\_\_\_\_ a dentist.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Jonas Salk created a vaccine for polio.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Wongs moved after they won the lottery.
5. Do you know \_\_\_\_\_ Browns?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Brown is my best friend.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Trump family went on vacation last week.
8. This course was taught by \_\_\_\_\_ Professor Wheeler last year.
9. Have you ever heard of John \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist?
10. Who was Alfred \_\_\_\_\_ Great's son?
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Halloween is in \_\_\_\_\_ October.
12. We worked hard on \_\_\_\_\_ Monday and \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, but we played on \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday.
13. His birthday is on \_\_\_\_\_ Fourth of July.
14. We celebrated \_\_\_\_\_ New Year's Eve quietly at home.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday before \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving is a busy day for the family cook.

## ANSWERS

- |             |         |             |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| 1. T        | 6. T    | 11. T, T    |
| 2. the, the | 7. The  | 12. T, T, T |
| 3. T        | 8. T    | 13. the     |
| 4. The      | 9. the  | 14. T       |
| 5. the      | 10. the | 15. The, T  |

**6.10** When talking about clothing or parts of the body, a personal adjective pronoun (my, your, his, her, our, etc.) is often used, (not the definite article as in some other languages)

- a. My stomach aches.
- b. She cut her finger,
- c. Fix your tie.
- d. There is a hole in your shirt.
- e. We worked until our arms ached.
- f. The dog used his nose to find the robber.
- g. The cat knocked over the glass with its tail.
- h. \_\_\_\_\_

### **6.11 Exceptions:**

I have a headache, a toothache, a stomachache, a back ache.

Use *the* with parts of the body after *myself*, *himself*, *yourself*, etc. In phrases after *on*, *in*, *over* and *by* showing the location of an action received by the owner of the body part, either *the* or a personal adjective pronoun may be used.

- a. Carry bumped herself on the head.
- b. He cut himself on the thumb.
- c. The victim was shot in the chest. (or, in his/her chest)
- d. The teacher pulled the boy by the ear. (or, by his ear)
- e. The stone hit her in the shoulder. (or, in her shoulder)
- f. The soldier was wounded in the leg. (or, in his leg)
- g. The baby pulled the cat by the tail. (or, by its tail)
- h. Compare: The ball went over his head.

He was hit over the head.

6.12 Do not use *the* with certain other "noun markers." Some of these are:

this	my	another	much
that	your	every	no
these	her	some	
those	his	any	
whose	its	either	
which	our	neither	
what	their	enough	

### EXERCISES

Write *the* or *a (an)* or a personal pronoun adjective (*my your, her, his, our, etc.*) where they are needed.

1. Janet brushed \_\_\_\_\_ hair.
2. Richard hurt himself in \_\_\_\_\_ shoulder.
3. We washed \_\_\_\_\_ hands in hot water.
4. The boy cut himself on \_\_\_\_\_ leg.
5. She had \_\_\_\_\_ toothache all night long
6. I hurt \_\_\_\_\_ back.
7. The old man bumped \_\_\_\_\_ head.
8. Did the old man bump himself on \_\_\_\_\_ head?
9. The policeman shot the robber in \_\_\_\_\_ back.
10. She grabbed him by \_\_\_\_\_ neck and shook him.



### ANSWERS

- |        |        |       |        |         |
|--------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| 1. her | 3. our | 5. a  | 7. his | 9. the  |
| 2. the | 4. the | 6. my | 8. the | 10. the |

## STEP SEVEN: Using *the* with mass nouns and abstract nouns

**7.1** *Mass nouns* are *non-countable* nouns that have no definite size or shape. (See 3.6)  
Here are some additional mass nouns.

air	dirt	rice	sugar	weather
cloth	dust	soap	chalk	sunshine
garbage	food	soup	oatmeal	moonlight
paper	furniture	metal	pork	mayonnaise
land	grass	iron	tea	gold

other mass nouns:

---

**7.2** Do not use any article when talking about the *entire category* of a mass noun.  
(Even if there is an adjective before the noun.)

- Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.
- Butter is fattening.
- We need air to breathe.

d. Paper is made from wood pulp.

e. I like chocolate milk.

f. Colombian coffee is expensive.

g. \_\_\_\_\_

h. \_\_\_\_\_

**7.3** Use *the* when you are talking about a specific example or portion of the mass.

a. The water from this fountain is cold.

b. The love of a dog is reliable.

c. The butter in this dish is melting.

d. The air in this room is hard to breathe.

e. \_\_\_\_\_

f. \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISES

Write *the* where it is necessary:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ cheese is made from \_\_\_\_\_ milk.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ milk that you bought yesterday is sour.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ air at Mount Washington is cold, fresh and clean.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ gold is used to make jewelry.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ silver from that mine is a very high quality.
6. I want to make a sandwich. Where's \_\_\_\_\_ butter?
7. This house is full of \_\_\_\_\_ dust.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ dust in this house is two inches deep!
9. There is no shortage of \_\_\_\_\_ oil this year.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ ketchup in this bottle won't pour out.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ ketchup is made from tomatoes.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ coffee contains caffeine.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Brazilian coffee is less expensive than Colombian coffee.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ coffee in this pot is too strong.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ ice is frozen water.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ ice on our lake was 18 inches thick last winter.

## ANSWERS

- |         |        |         |         |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1. T, T | 5. The | 9. T    | 13. T   |
| 2. The  | 6. the | 10. The | 14. The |
| 3. The  | 7. T   | 11. T   | 15. T   |
| 4. T    | 8. The | 12. T   | 16. T   |

**7.4** An abstract noun is a word that names a non-tangible thing or idea, such as emotions, qualities or actions.

(Non-tangible - does not have a physical body; can not be touched.)

These are examples of abstract nouns:

beauty	fear	disease	space
truth	freedom	small pox	war
love	slavery	nature	work
marriage	history	religion	music
murder	hunger	science	time
friendship	art	health	photography
poetry	peace	mathematics	anger
education	literature	English	courage

other abstract nouns:

---

**7.5** Use *the* when the noun "belongs" to a particular person, group, or place.

- Mr. and Mrs. Jones were happy about the marriage of their son.
- The War Between the States was fought from 1861-1865.
- Amy is studying the history of Japan.
- \_\_\_\_\_

**7.6** Do not use *the* when the abstract noun includes the entire category it refers to.

- Mr. Smith doesn't believe in marriage, (any marriage, or all marriage)
- War is horrible, (any war)
- History is a fascinating subject, (any or all history)
- \_\_\_\_\_

**7.7** The name of a language, a school subject or field of study usually does not use the word *the* unless it is restricted, or belongs to a particular person or place.

- He speaks French.
- The French spoken in Quebec is different from the French spoken in Paris,
- We studied literature last year.
- Professor Jones teaches a course on the literature of the Middle Ages.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISES

Write *the* where it is needed in these sentences:

1. I am going to study \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish next year.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ death is not always sad.
3. The children were sad about \_\_\_\_\_ death of their cat.
4. I think \_\_\_\_\_ history of the United States is very interesting.
5. Many visitors to the United States were surprised by \_\_\_\_\_ kindness of Americans.
6. Children should learn \_\_\_\_\_ courtesy in school.
7. Do you like \_\_\_\_\_ poetry?
8. I like \_\_\_\_\_ poetry of the eighteenth century.
9. Marie appreciated \_\_\_\_\_ friendship of her classmate Anna.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ time flies.
11. We all enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ beauty.
12. He was greatly moved by \_\_\_\_\_ beauty of the sunset.
13. We enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ literature.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ literature of ancient Greece is still worth reading.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ space between the wall and the sofa was narrow.
16. Men have traveled in \_\_\_\_\_ space.
17. My favorite subjects at school were \_\_\_\_\_ English, \_\_\_\_\_ science, \_\_\_\_\_ gym and \_\_\_\_\_ math.

## ANSWERS

- |        |                |
|--------|----------------|
| 1. T   | 10. T          |
| 2. T   | 11. T          |
| 3. the | 12. the        |
| 4. the | 13. T          |
| 5. the | 14. The        |
| 6. T   | 15. The        |
| 7. T   | 16. T          |
| 8. the | 17. T, T, T, T |
| 9. the |                |

7.8 Generally, no *the* is used with words for diseases.

arthritis  
cancer  
high blood  
pressure  
rheumatism

AIDS  
tuberculosis  
polio  
sinus trouble  
diphtheria

scarlet fever  
appendicitis  
heart disease  
leukemia

- a. He suffered from arthritis, heart disease and diabetes for most of his later life.
- b. Children must be protected against diphtheria and whooping cough.

### 7.9 Exceptions

an allergy a tumor

a cold

a fever

a bad heart

a broken leg (arm, finger, bone, etc.)

a headache, toothache, backache, stomachache, etc.

the measles

the chicken pox

the mumps

the "willies"

- a. Paul had the measles when he was six and the mumps when he was seven.
- b. I have an allergy to tomatoes.
- c. Loud noise gives me a headache.
- d. The doctors removed a tumor from his stomach.
- e. I get "the willies" when I walk past a dark cemetery at night.

### 7.10 Use *the* after *study*, *practice* and *play* for *musical instruments*.

- a. Joe is studying the violin.
- b. Can you play the piano?
- c. She had to practice the trumpet two hours a day.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

7.11 Don't use *the* before *school subjects, sports* or *games*.

- a. We played baseball all afternoon,
- b. Jack studied mathematics for years.
- c. She beat me at checkers.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISES

Write *the* or *a* where they are needed. Write  $\top$  where no article is needed,

- 1. Can Mary play \_\_\_\_\_ football?
- 2. I know how to play \_\_\_\_\_ chess.
- 3. Does your sister play \_\_\_\_\_ guitar?
- 4. No, she is studying \_\_\_\_\_ French horn, but she doesn't play it very well.
- 5. Bill is going to play \_\_\_\_\_ ping pong after school.
- 6. Jack plays \_\_\_\_\_ drums with a famous rock group.
- 7. When I go to college I am going to study \_\_\_\_\_ music.
- 8. Have you ever had \_\_\_\_\_ mumps?
- 9. My grandfather had \_\_\_\_\_ bad heart and \_\_\_\_\_ arthritis.
- 10. The doctors treated him for \_\_\_\_\_ high blood pressure.

### ANSWERS

- 1.  $\top$
- 2.  $\top$
- 3. the
- 4. the
- 5.  $\top$
- 6. the
- 7.  $\top$
- 8. the
- 9. a,  $\top$
- 10.  $\top$

### 7.12 "Object - activity words"

*Object-activity words* are words that can have two related, but different meanings. One meaning of the word is an object (or building). The other meaning is the activity that is connected with that object or building.

- |      |        |         |       |          |
|------|--------|---------|-------|----------|
| bed  | school | college | class | church   |
| jail | prison | court   | town  | vacation |

Use *the* when only the object or building is meant.

Don't use *the* when you include the activity that goes on in the object or at the building.

a. The bed in my room is comfortable.

(*the* is used because only the physical bed is meant.)

b. I go to bed at ten o'clock.

(*The* is not used because bed here means both an object and the activity that takes place in the object: resting or sleeping.)

c. The English class I go to is for international students.

d. We are studying about articles in English class.

### EXERCISE

Notice the differences between the following sentences. Can you understand why *the* is used in some places and not in others?

1. School begins at nine o'clock.

2. The school I go to is on Anderson Avenue.

3. The criminal went to prison.

4. The prison is near the Hudson River.

5. My friend goes to church every Sunday.

6. Where is the church?

7. My older brother is at college.

8. I'll meet you in front of the college at nine o'clock.

9. Don't sit on the bed.

10. Our niece goes to bed at seven o'clock.

11. She took her ex-husband to court.

12. We met in front of the court.

13. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_



**STEP EIGHTH When to use *the* with place names and directions**

**8.1** Use *no* article for names of continents, countries, cities, states, counties, mountains, lakes, islands, beaches, streets, avenues, parks, Heaven, hell, and Paradise.

- a. Asia and Africa are continents.
- b. Boston is in Massachusetts.
- c. Bergen County is in New Jersey.
- d. Mount Everest is in Asia.
- e. Puerto Rico and Hispaniola are islands.
- f. We walked from Washington Square up Fifth Avenue to Central Park.
- g. Lake Erie is between New York State and Canada.
- h. Lizzy dreamed she was in Paradise.
- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- j. \_\_\_\_\_

**8.2** Use *the* with groups of islands or lakes, and mountain ranges, or names with plural forms.

- a. The Philippines were named after Philip II of Spain.
- b. Cuba is known as "the Pearl of the Antilles.
- c. The Great Lakes are far from the Rocky Mountains.
- d. Another name for Holland is the Netherlands,
- e. The Andes Mountains are higher than the Alps.
- f. The Azores are near the Canary Islands.
- g. Many alligators live in The Everglades.
- h. \_\_\_\_\_



**8.3** Use *the* with names containing Union, United, Kingdom, Republic, Empire, or Dynasty.

the Soviet Union

the Kingdom of Sweden

the U.S.S.R.

the People's Republic of China

the United States

the Roman Empire

the United Arab Republic

the Han Dynasty

**8.4** Certain city names contain *the*.

The Hague

the Bronx

**8.5** Some nicknames of cities contain *the*

"the Big Apple"

"the City of Brotherly Love"

**8.6** Names of streets, when followed by *a* phrase with "of" use *the*:

the Avenue of the Americas

**8.7** Use *the* with deserts, peninsulas, oceans, seas, gulfs, rivers, canals, bridges, tunnels, zoos, and gardens.

a. The Sahara is a huge desert, bigger than the Mojave.

b. The Red Sea separates Egypt from Israel and Saudi Arabia.

c. The George Washington Bridge crosses the Hudson River.

d. Cars can also cross via the Lincoln Tunnel or the Holland Tunnel.

e. Children love the Bronx Zoo but are sometimes bored with the Botanical Gardens.

f. The Mississippi and the Amazon are the two largest rivers in the world, while the Nile is the longest.

g. \_\_\_\_\_

**8.8** Use *the* with North, South, East, and West when they are used to refer to a section of the country or of the world.

a. The Civil War was fought between the North and the South.

b. The Northeast is more densely populated than the Southwest.

c. \_\_\_\_\_

**Use *the* with north, south, east and west after a prepositional phrase.**

d. The United States is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, the Pacific Ocean on the west, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south.

e. \_\_\_\_\_

**8.9** When north, south, east and west are used as single word adverbs, do not use *the*.

- a. The explorer looked east, then west. He tested the wind and decided to continue north.
- b. New York is south of Boston.
- c. California is west of Nevada.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

**8.10** Colleges, schools and universities: Use *the* if the name of the school is followed by a phrase beginning with *of* or *for*:

the University of Southern California

the City College of New York

the College of William and Mary

the School for the Blind

Do not use *the* if there is no phrase following the name of the school.

Rutgers State University

Notre Dame Northwestern University

Columbia University

Harvard

Yale

Do not use *the* if you use the initials only of the school.

- a. I graduated from C.C.N.Y., but my brother went to U.C.L.A.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

**8.11** Use *the* with names of buildings

the Museum of Natural History

the Smithsonian the Gallery of Modern Art

the Empire State Building

the Holiday Inn

the Jefferson Memorial

the White House

the World Trade Center

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**Exceptions: Names of buildings with Hall, Hospital do not use *the*.**

**Some buildings with House do not use *the*.**

- a. The name of her dormitory was Archer Hall.
- b. Valley Hospital is in Westwood; University Hospital is in Manhattan.
- c. Blair House is in Washington, D.C.

## EXERCISES

1. We saw \_\_\_\_\_ Eiffel Tower when we were in Paris.
2. Last year, I took a course at \_\_\_\_\_ University of Miami in \_\_\_\_\_ Florida.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Canada is \_\_\_\_\_ north of \_\_\_\_\_ United States.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Superior is one of \_\_\_\_\_ Great Lakes,
5. We went to \_\_\_\_\_ Bahamas for our vacation.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ New York City is also known as " \_\_\_\_\_ Big Apple."
7. Have you ever climbed \_\_\_\_\_ Mount Washington?
8. Boats can go from \_\_\_\_\_ Albany to Buffalo using \_\_\_\_\_ Mohawk River  
and \_\_\_\_\_ Barge Canal.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ English Channel separates \_\_\_\_\_ Great Britain and France.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Brooklyn Bridge goes over \_\_\_\_\_ East River.
11. I love and \_\_\_\_\_ Central Park. It's bounded by \_\_\_\_\_ Fifth Avenue on  
\_\_\_\_\_ east, and \_\_\_\_\_ Central Park West on \_\_\_\_\_ west.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Southwest is called "The Sun Belt."

## ANSWERS

- |              |                   |                       |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the, T    | 5. the            | 9. The, T, T          |
| 2. the, T    | 6. T, The         | 10. The, the          |
| 3. T, T, the | 7. T              | 11. T, T, the, T, the |
| 4. T, the    | 8. T, T, the, the | 12. The               |

## STEP NINE: Other rules and exceptions

**9.1** Do not use *the* with most names of businesses.

Macy's	Saks Fifth Avenue
Bloomingdales	Ford
Con Edison	New Jersey Bell
Black and Tan Buses	Jeffrey's Repair Shop
IBM	

**9.2** Exceptions: When the last word in the company name is *company*, *the* is sometimes used.

the Bridgetown Lumber Company

the Ford Motor Company

the A & P (the Atlantic and Pacific *Tea* Company)

**9.3** About 80% of magazines do not use *the* with their titles:

Discovery  
Playboy

Time  
Scientific American

Ms.

Newsweek

Ebony

Reader's Digest

TV Guide

Better Homes and Gardens

But:

the Quarterly Review

the Saturday Evening Post

the New Yorker

**9.4** Most newspapers have the word *the* in their titles:

The New York Times

The Daily News

The Post

The Campus Reporter

The Washington Post

The Wall Street Journal

- a. When I got home, the first thing I did was read The Post.
- b. Would you get me The Times while you are at the store?
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**9.5** Use *the* with the names of periods of history (ages, years, and centuries) and the names of wars, battles, agreements, treaties, and alliances.

the Golden Age of Greece

the Stone Age

the Pax Romana

the Industrial Revolution

the American Revolution

the Grand Alliance

the Middle Ages

the nineteen eighties

the twelfth century

the Roaring Twenties

the Renaissance

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**Exceptions:**

World War One

World War Two

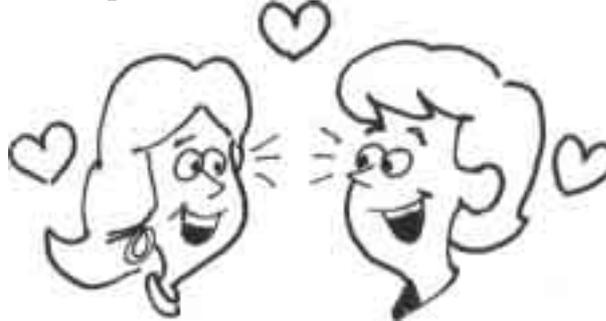
**9.6** Use *the* with ordinal numbers before a noun,  
(ordinal numbers = first, second, third, fourth, etc.)  
(Next and last are sometimes used like ordinal numbers. In these cases, use the.)

- a. The first person to arrive was Mr. Hendricks.
- b. The second person was Mrs. Smally.
- c. We live on the fourth floor.
- d. The last month of the year is December.
- e. Sharon ate too much on her birthday. The next day she was sick.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

**9.7** Next/last + year, week, month, holiday or season: If the point of time you are starting from is *now*, do not use *the*.

- a. Next year we are going to the mountains for vacation.
- b. Last week our company sold three thousand widgets.
- c. I hope we can come to visit you next summer.
- d. We had a good time last New Year's Eve.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

**9.8** Do not use *the* with certain phrases with ordinal numbers.



- a. It was love at first sight.
- b. At first glance, it looked like the right one.
- c. On second thought, his idea seems quite useful.

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**9.9** When a number follows a noun, do not use *the*.

- a. I read Chapter Nine and Chapter Eight for homework.
- b. The plane departs from Gate Four.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**9.10** Use *the* for names of sports teams, groups, organizations and government departments.

the American Red Cross

the fire department

the New York Mets

the police

the Philharmonic Orchestra

the board of education

the town council

the United States Senate

the House of Representatives

the I.R.S.

## EXERCISES

Write *the* where it is needed. Write 6 where no article is needed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ General Motors is one of America's largest companies.
2. Do you shop at \_\_\_\_\_ Bloomingdales?
3. His favorite magazines are \_\_\_\_\_ Scientific American and \_\_\_\_\_ Playboy.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Washington Post is a famous newspaper.
5. We studied about \_\_\_\_\_ American Revolution in history class.
6. Many people were killed in \_\_\_\_\_ Second World War.
7. Are you going to school \_\_\_\_\_ next week?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ last time I saw her, she was a blonde.
9. Today is May first. \_\_\_\_\_ last month was April.
10. I was planning to go to his party, but on \_\_\_\_\_ second thought, I changed my mind.
11. Her bus leaves from \_\_\_\_\_ Platform Sixty-two.
12. Call \_\_\_\_\_ police!

ANSWERS. [WWW.IELTS4U.blogfa.com](http://WWW.IELTS4U.blogfa.com)

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1. T    | 7. T    |
| 2. T    | 8. The  |
| 3. T, T | 9. T    |
| 4. The  | 10. T   |
| 5. the  | 11. T   |
| 6. The  | 12. the |

## STEP TEN: Review exercises

Take each test and check your answers. If you have any errors, review the rules indicated by the numbers in parentheses.

### REVIEW EXERCISE ONE: CONCEPTS

Complete these sentences:

1. The three words used most often in the English language are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (0.1)
2. These three words are a part of speech called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A noun is a word that names a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_. (0.2)
4. Whenever you see or hear *a*, *an* or *the*, you can expect a \_\_\_\_\_ to follow. (0.2)
5. The word *a* or *an* means \_\_\_\_\_. (0.2)
6. *An* is used before words that begin with \_\_\_\_\_ sounds. (1.3)
7. The indefinite article \_\_\_\_\_ is used before words that begin with consonant sounds. (1.4)
8. The word *the* is pronounced in two different ways, \_\_\_\_\_ before consonant sounds, and \_\_\_\_\_ before vowel sounds. (1.5, 1.6)
9. The indefinite (not definite, not previously mentioned) articles are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (3)
10. The definite article is \_\_\_\_\_. (5)
11. Boy, chair, star, foot are examples of \_\_\_\_\_ (countable, non-countable) nouns. (3.3)
12. Non-countable nouns name things that have no definite size or shape. These are also called \_\_\_\_\_ nouns. (3.6)

### ANSWERS

- |                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. a, an, the                   | 7. a          |
| 2. articles                     | 8. [Dq], [Di] |
| 3. person, place, thing or idea | 9. a, an      |
| 4. noun                         | 10. the       |
| 5. one                          | 11. countable |
| 6. vowel                        | 12. mass      |

Numbers correct: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 19.

## **REVIEW EXERCISE TWO**

Write *a* or *an* only where they are needed. Write  $\top$  where no article is needed.

1. I ate \_\_\_\_\_ orange this morning. (1.3, 3.1)
2. The man drove the wrong way down \_\_\_\_\_ one-way street. (1.4, 3.1)
3. Do you spell your name with \_\_\_\_\_ "s" or \_\_\_\_\_ "z?" (1.3, 1.4)
4. We had to wait \_\_\_\_\_ hour for dinner. (1.3, 3.1)
5. We ordered \_\_\_\_\_ lamb for our meal. (3.2, 3.8)
6. Do you want \_\_\_\_\_ ice cream? (3.2)
7. Do you want \_\_\_\_\_ ice cream cone? (1.3, 3.1)
8. There are \_\_\_\_\_ interesting people in my class. (3.2)
9. I like \_\_\_\_\_ movies about mysteries. (3.2)
10. Jack had \_\_\_\_\_ egg on his tie. (3.8)

## **ANSWERS**

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. an     | 6. $\top$  |
| 2. a      | 7. an      |
| 3. an, a  | 8. $\top$  |
| 4. an     | 9. $\top$  |
| 5. $\top$ | 10. $\top$ |

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Numbers correct: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 11.

### **REVIEW EXERCISE THREE**

Write a, or *an* only where they are needed. Write 9 where no article is needed.

1. Jack's father is \_\_\_\_\_ professor at Boston University. (4.1)
2. His mother is \_\_\_\_\_ engineer. (4.1)
3. I want to be \_\_\_\_\_ pilot. (4.1)
4. Pilots can earn \$45,000 \_\_\_\_\_ year. (4.2)
5. Mr. Zac is always grumpy and unpleasant. As a result, he has \_\_\_\_\_ few friends. (4.5)
6. I've been saving all year, so I have \_\_\_\_\_ little money. It's enough to buy a second-hand car. (4.5)
7. California is the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ place I'd like to go on vacation. (4.4)
8. It's \_\_\_\_\_ shame that you can't come to my party. (4.3)
9. Southerners never seem to be in \_\_\_\_\_ rush the way New Yorkers are. (4.3)
10. She is \_\_\_\_\_ excellent teacher. (4.1)
11. I brush my teeth twice \_\_\_\_\_ day. (4.2)
12. Quite \_\_\_\_\_ few people like tennis. (4.5)
13. Henry is the type of \_\_\_\_\_ man that everyone likes. (4.4)
14. Are you in \_\_\_\_\_ good mood today? (4.3)

### **ANSWERS**

- |       |        |
|-------|--------|
| 1. a  | 8. a   |
| 2. an | 9. a   |
| 3. a  | 10. an |
| 4. a  | 11. a  |
| 5. T  | 12. a  |
| 6. a  | 13. T  |
| 7. T  | 14. a  |

## **REVIEW EXERCISE FOUR**

Write *a*, *an*, or *the* in the sentences below:

1. For my birthday I received \_\_\_\_\_ book and \_\_\_\_\_ umbrella. (3.1, 5.2)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ book was from Aunt Mary and \_\_\_\_\_ umbrella was from Uncle Tom. (5.1)
3. We couldn't see because. \_\_\_\_\_ lights went out. (5.2)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ sky is overcast today. I think it will rain, (5.3)
5. We watched \_\_\_\_\_ moon rise over the mountain. (5.3)
6. Sue is \_\_\_\_\_ good cook. As a matter of fact, she is \_\_\_\_\_ best cook I know. (4.1, 5.5)
7. Moby Dick is \_\_\_\_\_ interesting book, it's \_\_\_\_\_ best book I've ever read. (1.3, 5.5)

## **ANSWERS**

1. a, an
2. The, the
3. the
4. The
5. the
6. a, the
7. an, the

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Number correct: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 11

## **REVIEW EXERCISE FIVE:**

Write *the* only where it is needed. Write  $\top$  where no article is needed,

1. \_\_\_\_\_ monkeys are smarter than \_\_\_\_\_ dogs. (6.1)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ women in my family are all short. (6.1)
3. I like \_\_\_\_\_ fresh fruits and \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables. (6.1)
4. Everyone loves \_\_\_\_\_ clowns. (6.1)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ clowns in Ringling Brothers' Circus are \_\_\_\_\_ funniest clowns in \_\_\_\_\_ world. (6.1, 5.5, 5.3)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday is the first day of the week. (6.2)
7. I'll see you \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday at 4 o'clock. (6.2)
8. Will you be home for \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas? (6.2)

9. America's birthday is \_\_\_\_\_ Fourth of July. (6.3)
10. Children in school are excited on \_\_\_\_\_ Friday before vacation begins. (6.4)
11. I read a story about \_\_\_\_\_ Richard \_\_\_\_\_ Lionhearted. (6.9)
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Jones is our teacher. (6.5)
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Smiths have been our neighbors for a long time. (6.7)
14. Have you ever seen \_\_\_\_\_ Adams Family on television? (6.8)
15. The treaty was signed by \_\_\_\_\_ King George. (6.5)

### ANSWERS

- |                  |         |            |
|------------------|---------|------------|
| 1. T, T          | 6. T    | 11. T, the |
| 2. The           | 7. T    | 12. T      |
| 3. T, T          | 8. T    | 13. The    |
| 4. T             | 9. the  | 14. the    |
| 5. The, the, the | 10. the | 15. T      |

Number right: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 20

### REVIEW EXERCISE SIX

Write *a, an, the, or my, his, or her*.

1. I have \_\_\_\_\_ headache. (6.11)
2. I accidentally poked myself in \_\_\_\_\_ eye. (6.11)
3. Frank hurt \_\_\_\_\_ hand when he caught the ball. (6.10)
4. She washed \_\_\_\_\_ face with warm water and soap. (6.10)
5. The ball hit me in \_\_\_\_\_ head. (6.11)
6. The policeman was shot in \_\_\_\_\_ shoulder. (6.11)
7. The little boy got dirt on \_\_\_\_\_ shirt. (6.10)

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Write *the* where it is needed. Write  $\top$  where no article is needed,

8. \_\_\_\_\_ milk comes from \_\_\_\_\_ cows. (7.1, 3.2)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ milk in this glass is sour. (7.4)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ chocolate milk is delicious. (7.2, 7.3)
11. Some people will do anything for \_\_\_\_\_ money. (7.2)
12. I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ literature of the Middle Ages. (7.5)
13. \_\_\_\_\_ literature was my favorite subject in school. (7.6)
14. Do you like \_\_\_\_\_ music of Mozart? (7.5)
15. Everyone likes \_\_\_\_\_ music. (7.6)
16. Someday there will be an end to \_\_\_\_\_ war. (7.7)
17. Someday there will be an end to \_\_\_\_\_ war in Nicaragua. (7.5)
18. Charlie has been studying \_\_\_\_\_ Italian for two years. (7.6)
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Italian spoken in Rome is different from \_\_\_\_\_ Italian spoken in Naples. (7.5)

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**ANSWERS:**

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. a               | 11. $\top$   |
| 2. the             | 12. the      |
| 3. his             | 13. $\top$   |
| 4. her             | 14. the      |
| 5. the             | 15. $\top$   |
| 6. the             | 16. $\top$   |
| 7. his             | 17. the      |
| 8. $\top$ , $\top$ | 18. $\top$   |
| 9. The             | 19. The, the |
| 10. $\top$         |              |

Number right: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 20

## **REVIEW EXERCISE SEVEN**

Write *a* or *the* where they are needed. Write † where no article is needed.

1. Mr. Jackson had \_\_\_\_\_ bad heart, and \_\_\_\_\_ high blood pressure. (7.9, 7.8)
2. She had \_\_\_\_\_ stomach ache, but it was not \_\_\_\_\_ appendicitis. (7.9, 7.8)
3. Bob caught \_\_\_\_\_ mumps from Kelly. (7.9)
4. You can get a vaccination against \_\_\_\_\_ measles, and \_\_\_\_\_ polio. (7.9, 7.8)
5. Laura had \_\_\_\_\_ fever of 100.2 degrees. (7.9)
6. Dr. Wheeler plays \_\_\_\_\_ piano very well. (7.10)
7. She also studied \_\_\_\_\_ violin. (7.10)
8. Do you enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ mathematics? (7.11)
9. We play \_\_\_\_\_ bridge every Sunday afternoon. (7.11)
10. My brother plays \_\_\_\_\_ soccer. (7.11)

### **ANSWERS:**

1. a, †
2. a, †
3. the
4. the, †
5. a
6. the
7. the
8. †
9. †
10. †

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Number right: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 13

## **REVIEW EXERCISE EIGHT**

Write *the* only where it is needed. Write † where no article is needed.

1. Everyone goes to \_\_\_\_\_ bed early at our house. (7.12)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ bed in the hotel we stayed at was very comfortable. (7.12)
3. What time does \_\_\_\_\_ school begin? (7.12)
4. I go to \_\_\_\_\_ church on Sundays. (7.12)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Australia, \_\_\_\_\_ Europe, and \_\_\_\_\_ Africa are continents. (8.1)
6. We went to \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Louise for our vacation. (8.1)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Great Lakes are \_\_\_\_\_ largest fresh water lakes in America. (8.2, 5.5)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Alps are in \_\_\_\_\_ Austria and \_\_\_\_\_ Switzerland. (8.2, 8.1)

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Soviet Union and \_\_\_\_\_ People's Republic of China are two great world powers. (8.3)
10. Her house was on \_\_\_\_\_ Twenty-ninth Street. (8.1)
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Everglades is a swamp in \_\_\_\_\_ Florida. (8.2, 8.1)
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Canada is north of \_\_\_\_\_ United States. (8.1, 8.3)
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Bronx is one of the boroughs of \_\_\_\_\_ New York City. (8.1, 8.4)
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Sixth Avenue is called \_\_\_\_\_ Avenue of the Americas in Midtown Manhattan. (8.1, 8.6)
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Hague is the capital of \_\_\_\_\_ Netherlands. (8.4, 8.2)

### ANSWERS

- |            |              |              |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. T       | 6. T         | 11. The, T   |
| 2. The     | 7. The, the  | 12. T, the   |
| 3. T       | 8. The, T, T | 13. The, T   |
| 4. T       | 9. The, the  | 14. T, The   |
| 5. T, T, T | 10. T        | 15. The, The |

Number right: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 26

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### REVIEW EXERCISE NINE

Write *the* where it is needed. Write T where no article is needed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Golden Gate Bridge connects \_\_\_\_\_ San Francisco with \_\_\_\_\_ Marin County. (8.7, 8.1)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Gulf of Mexico is \_\_\_\_\_ south of Texas. (8.7, 8.9, 8.1)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Missouri River flows into \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi River. (8.7)
4. I'm from \_\_\_\_\_ South. (8.8)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Mexico is bounded by \_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Ocean on \_\_\_\_\_ west, \_\_\_\_\_ United States on \_\_\_\_\_ north, \_\_\_\_\_ Gulf of Mexico on \_\_\_\_\_ east, and \_\_\_\_\_ Guatemala on \_\_\_\_\_ south. (8.1, 8.7, 8.8)
6. Italy is \_\_\_\_\_ south of Switzerland. (8.9)
7. Karen went to \_\_\_\_\_ Harvard, while her sister went to \_\_\_\_\_ University of Indiana. (8.10, 8.11)

8. While we were in Washington, D.C., we visited \_\_\_\_\_ White House,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lincoln Memorial, and \_\_\_\_\_ Smithsonian Museum. (8.11)

## ANSWERS

- |              |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The, T, T | 5. T, the, the, the, the, the, T, the |
| 2. The, T, T | 6. T                                  |
| 3. The, the  | 7. T, the                             |
| 4. the       | 8. the, the, the                      |

Number right: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 24.

## REVIEW EXERCISE TEN

Write *the* where it is needed. Write T where no article is needed.

1. My favorite magazines are \_\_\_\_\_ Time, \_\_\_\_\_ Newsweek, and \_\_\_\_\_ Life. (9.3)
2. The boss reads two newspapers a day: \_\_\_\_\_ New York Times and \_\_\_\_\_ Wall Street Journal. (9.4)
3. We like to shop at \_\_\_\_\_ Bloomingdales or \_\_\_\_\_ Macy's. (9.1)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Renaissance began in Italy during \_\_\_\_\_ fourteenth century. (9.5)
5. What was \_\_\_\_\_ first job you held when you graduated college? (9.6)
6. I've told you for \_\_\_\_\_ hundredth time, don't exaggerate! (9.6)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ first and second chapters were hard, but by the time I got to \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Ten, I understood everything. (9.6, 9.9)
8. December is \_\_\_\_\_ last month of the year. (9.6)
9. I went to visit him \_\_\_\_\_ last month. (9.7)
10. Do you believe in love at \_\_\_\_\_ first sight? (9.8)

## ANSWERS

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. T, T, T  | 6. the    |
| 2. The, the | 7. the, T |
| 3. T, T     | 8. the    |
| 4. The, the | 9. T      |
| 5. the      | 10. T     |

Number right: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 16.

## MASTERY TEST

PART I Write *a*, *an* or *the* where they are needed.

Write  $\top$  where no article is needed.

1. I like \_\_\_\_\_ rice.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ cats are good mouse hunters.
3. Juliana used to play. \_\_\_\_\_ guitar.
4. We saw \_\_\_\_\_ fattest lady in \_\_\_\_\_ world at the circus last week.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Bob plays \_\_\_\_\_ tennis very well.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ water is \_\_\_\_\_ best drink when you are thirsty.
7. Please put the pillow on \_\_\_\_\_ bed.
8. I don't go to \_\_\_\_\_ school on \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday.
9. There was an accident in front of \_\_\_\_\_ church.
10. I wrote a long letter to \_\_\_\_\_ O'Briens.
11. We need \_\_\_\_\_ oxygen to breathe.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ sugar in this bowl is full of lumps.
13. What is \_\_\_\_\_ worst thing that ever happened to you?
14. \_\_\_\_\_ love is a beautiful emotion.
15. Frank studied \_\_\_\_\_ history at \_\_\_\_\_ college.
16. What time do you go to \_\_\_\_\_ bed?
17. \_\_\_\_\_ school is on the corner.
18. I think that \_\_\_\_\_ mathematics is \_\_\_\_\_ hardest subject in school.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ seals are very good swimmers.
20. I don't like \_\_\_\_\_ dresses in this store,
21. When I spoke about Bill Martin, I meant \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Martin who lives in  
Cliffside Park, not \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Martin from Englewood.
22. Do you like \_\_\_\_\_ American food?
23. \_\_\_\_\_ stars are shining brightly.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Michigan is one of \_\_\_\_\_ Great Lakes.
25. Most people hate \_\_\_\_\_ war.
26. Ed wants to be \_\_\_\_\_ composer.
27. She earns seven dollars \_\_\_\_\_ hour at her part-time job.

28. I heard the news on \_\_\_\_\_ radio.
29. We see Frank four or five times \_\_\_\_\_ week.
30. You seem to be in \_\_\_\_\_ good mood.
31. There is \_\_\_\_ little hope that the police will find the thieves. They left no clues.
32. Sam is always in \_\_\_\_\_ hurry.
33. Many \_\_\_\_\_ tear has to fall in the game of love and romance.
34. I found \_\_\_\_\_ wallet and a keychain. \_\_\_\_\_ wallet was empty but it had \_\_\_\_\_ identification card in it.
35. It's \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful day today. \_\_\_\_\_ sky is blue and \_\_\_\_\_ sun is shining. \_\_\_\_\_ weather is perfect.
36. Last night \_\_\_\_\_ moon rose at seven p.m.
37. We went to visit \_\_\_\_\_ Smiths.
38. Leif \_\_\_\_\_ Lucky was the Viking who discovered America,
39. I have \_\_\_\_\_ headache.
40. Bob bumped himself on \_\_\_ head.
41. We were worried about \_\_\_\_\_ disappearance of our dog.
42. Doctors are hoping to find a cure for \_\_\_\_\_ cancer.
43. Patty had \_\_\_\_\_ fever of 103 degrees when she had \_\_\_\_\_ mumps.
44. Let's play \_\_\_\_\_ baseball after school.
45. Barbara practices \_\_\_\_\_ piano for two hours every day.
46. What time do you go to \_\_\_\_\_ bed?
47. The thief spent five years in \_\_\_\_\_ prison.
48. \_\_\_\_\_ Central Park Zoo is on \_\_\_\_\_ Fifth Avenue.
49. We stayed at \_\_\_\_\_ Plaza Hotel.
50. \_\_\_\_\_ Mexico is south of \_\_\_\_\_ United States.

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## ANSWERS

- |             |              |                      |            |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1. T        | 14. T        | 27. an               | 40. the    |
| 2. T        | 15. T, T     | 28. the              | 41. the    |
| 3. the      | 16. T        | 29. a                | 42. T      |
| 4. the, the | 17. The      | 30. a                | 43. a, the |
| 5. T, T     | 18. T, the   | 31. T                | 44. T      |
| 6. T, the   | 19. T        | 32. a                | 45. the    |
| 7. the      | 20. the      | 33. a                | 46. T      |
| 8. T, T     | 21. the, the | 34. a, The, an       | 47. T      |
| 9. the      | 22. T        | 35. a, The, the, The | 48. The, T |
| 10. the     | 23. The      | 36. the              | 49. the    |
| 11. T       | 24. T, the   | 37. the              | 50. T, The |
| 12. The     | 25. T        | 38. the              |            |
| 13. the     | 26. a        | 39. a                |            |

Number correct: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 65.

PART II Answer these questions in complete sentences. Have a native-English speaking person correct them.

1. Where are you from?  
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2. What street do you live on?

3. What subjects do you enjoy?

4. Do you play any musical instruments? What are they?

5. What games and sports do you play?

6. What did you eat for lunch yesterday?

7. What language do you speak?

8. What time do you go to bed?

9. Have you ever traveled? Where to?

10. What museums have you visited?

11. What famous places have you seen?



	Singular		Plural
Definite	countable <b>THE</b>	non-countable <b>THE</b>	<b>THE</b>
Indefinite	<b>A (AN)</b>	no article	no article

Example:

	Singular		Plural
Definite	countable <b>THE chair</b>	non-countable <b>THE weather</b>	<b>THE chairs</b>
Indefinite	<b>A chair</b>	weather	chairs

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